

BUTLER BOARD OF EDUCATION



American Rescue Plan Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ARP ESSER III) LEA Plan for Use of ARP ESSER Funds.

1. Creating Safe and Healthy Learning Environments: HVAC/Ventilation upgrades.

The Butler Public schools will utilize funds to solidify the District's infrastructure in order to prevent any future pandemic concerns. These upgrades will include HVAC upgrades and replacement of ventilation systems in our three buildings. In addition, the district will continue to partner with State, local, tribal, and territorial public health departments, and other relevant agencies, to improve coordinated responses among such entities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to Coronavirus.

2. Purchase of technology:

In order to address learning loss or potential hybrid schedules, the district will purchase Chromebooks to ensure that all students have access to instruction any time. This in particular will help us offer instruction to our low income population who can not purchase this type of device.

3. Addressing Lost Instructional Time or Loss of Learning:

The Bulldog Summer Intervention and Enrichment Program has two distinct focus areas. The first part of this program focuses on our MTSS efforts in the district. During this time, we work to invite students within Tier III or in the latter stages of their Tier II plan to attend an intensive program over the summer run in the mornings. This program works to identify areas of need through a data study of our Standards Based Report Cards, STAR360 Data, and RtI data. Students are identified based on need, and then they are invited to attend our program. Every student has an individual plan created for them which focuses on the specific standards that are a concern. Through this, the teachers in the program work to address those standards in order to help students meet or progress toward grade level expectations. Students and their families are provided with a copy of the child's individual plan at the start of the program. We then update the families on individual student progress toward their identified learning goals with an interim report to demonstrate growth. At the end of the program, students are given a final report to show growth. These reports are also shared with building level intervention specialists to create RtI plans that can start at the start of school, reducing the need for weeks of testing. These specialists are able to begin

work with individual students immediately. The second part of this program is an enrichment program. In this, we run a STEAM Camp in which students learn design theory, coding, and engineering concepts within an engaging problem-based environment. In addition, we are looking to expand our offerings to include a physical fitness based camp, art specific camp, cooking camp, etc. Each enrichment camp runs for one week, and all students are invited to participate throughout the summer.

For the Summer Intervention/Enrichment, we conduct parent surveys to get feedback on the effectiveness of the program, as well as to get ideas for future programs they may desire. These surveys, in combination with the student progress reports, allow us to determine the effectiveness of our program. We then present these results to our BOE and community during our annual presentation of all student outcomes.

The district will institute programs based on evidence-based interventions as follows:

- In-school acceleration: Licensed educators provide needed support for students within the context of grade-level work and within the classroom; using high-quality assessments, and instruction on essential learning .
- Tutoring programs: High-dosage tutoring provided consistently by well-trained tutors or educators at least three days per week for at least 30 minutes at a time in groups of five or fewer students.
- Out-of-school time programs through instructional approaches. Educators target students needing additional support before, and after the regular school day, as well as on weekends and during school breaks programs, to deliver academic instruction.
- Summer learning and enrichment: Summer learning programs, camps, community partnerships, work-based learning or community service that provide high-quality instruction and are designed to meet the social and emotional needs of students through engaging and enriching experiences.
- Engage family in digital learning training and effectively using technology and platforms provided by the school.
- Utilize data to understand where and how resources should be allocated to address student access to opportunity to learn

4. Supporting Educators and Staff Well-Being.

Butler Public Schools will continue to partner with community resources such as the Morris County Center for Prevention and SAGE Thrive for ongoing counseling sessions and Parent Institutes to help our community and our students. In addition, we will be using a portion of these funds to help us build and equip sensory rooms in every school. These rooms will allow us to have an established space in every school where students can go to decompress, find counseling and assistance, and receive support. The district will utilize Sage Thrive services to offer counseling for small group intersections. Furthermore, we have partnered with Montclair State University to determine culture/climate needs for staff.

Respectfully,
Dr. Daniel R. Johnson